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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2953
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RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 5551
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON AFGHAN ELECTION FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS
DELIVERED

REF: A. STATE 57541

[1](#)B. NEW DELHI 2603

Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt for Reasons 1.4(B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff discussed Ref A points with MEA Under Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) Acquino Vimal on

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April 25, suggesting that some of India's USD 10 million in non-programmed but committed funds (Ref B) could be used to cover costs for Afghan elections. Vimal replied that it was unlikely India would be able to contribute as requested, as over USD 200 million of its USD 650 million commitment had already been spent, and many of the announced projects had not yet commenced. "We have had to turn down many good and inexpensive projects" because of insufficient funds to undertake new obligations, Vimal commented, adding that his earlier estimate of USD 10 million in non-programmed funds was too high. In addition, several of the Memoranda of Understanding signed by the GOI and GOA would require spending, which had not yet been included in MEA's budget estimates. MEA is "in a tussle" with the Ministry of Finance over its coming budget, he said, in part because of the higher-than-expected spending on Afghan assistance projects.

[1](#)2. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)
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